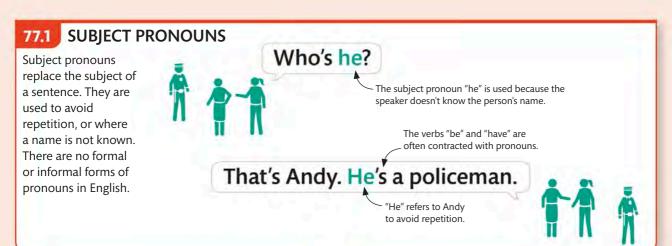
77 Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns are used to replace nouns in a sentence. They can refer to people or things and have different forms depending on whether they are a subject or an object.

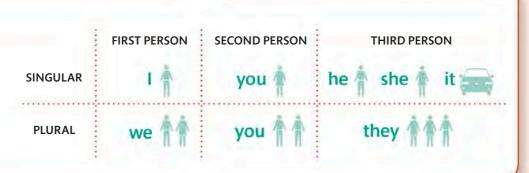
See also:

Verb patterns with objects 53 Possession 80 Contractions R13



HOW TO FORM

The pronoun used depends on how many nouns it is replacing, and person (first, second, or third.)



FURTHER EXAMPLES

I'm turning 25 next week.





He likes driving fast.

You are a great actor.



Stuart and I are going climbing.

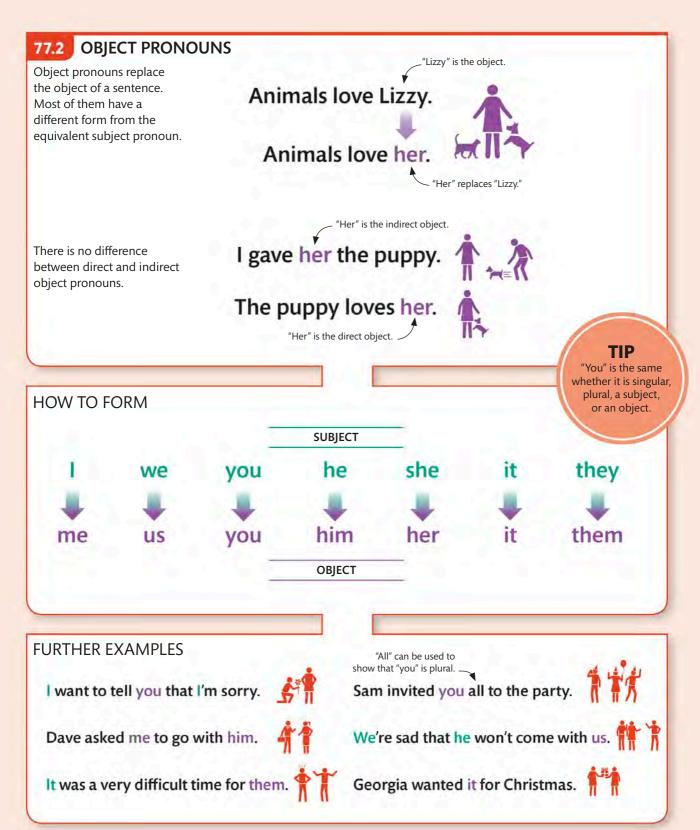


They complain every time.



You make a great team.





78 Reflexive pronouns

Reflexive pronouns show that the subject of a verb is the same as its object. They can also be used in other situations to add emphasis.

See also:

Verbs patterns with objects **53** Personal pronouns **77**

78.1 REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

Reflexive pronouns in English are formed by adding the suffix "-self" or "-selves" to simple pronouns.

The subject pronoun refers to the person doing the action.

A reflexive pronoun is used when the same person is affected by the action.



He cut himself while chopping vegetables.

HOW TO FORM REFLEXIVE OBJECT PRONOUNS PRONOUNS myself me you vourself This is the plural form of "yourself." you yourselves herself her himself it itself ourselves themselves

FURTHER EXAMPLES

I left myself a reminder about the meeting.



You must prepare yourselves for this exam.



Sarah sees herself as a natural team leader.



He introduced himself to the other guests.



The door locks itself when you close it.



We pride ourselves on our customer service.



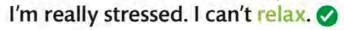
They're teaching themselves to cook.



VERBS THAT CANNOT BE REFLEXIVE 78.2

Several verbs that are followed by reflexive pronouns in other languages are not normally followed by a reflexive pronoun in English.

The verb "relax" is not followed by a reflexive pronoun.





I'm really stressed. I can't relax myself. 😵

This is wrong.

FURTHER EXAMPLES



I'll turn my music down if you can't concentrate.



He shaves every morning.



He was sick, but he's feeling better now.



She goes to bed at the same time every night.



Let's meet at the café at 2:30.



She washes her hair every evening.



I get up early every day.



I often hurry out of the house.

COMMON MISTAKES REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

A reflexive pronoun can only be used if the subject and object of the sentence are the same. If the object is different from the subject, an object pronoun should be used instead.

The subject of the sentence is "my boss," so it is correct to use an object pronoun.

My boss invited Joe and me to the meeting.



My boss invited myself and Joe to the meeting.

"I" is not the subject of the sentence, so it is wrong to use a reflexive pronoun

78.3 USING REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS FOR EMPHASIS

Sometimes reflexive pronouns are not essential to the grammar of the sentence, but can be used to add emphasis in different ways.



The company director gave the talk.

This sentence makes sense without a reflexive pronoun.

Adding the reflexive pronoun at the end of the clause emphasizes that the action was not done by someone else.

The company director gave the talk himself.

[The company director gave the talk, rather than getting someone else to do it.]

Adding the reflexive pronoun directly after the subject emphasizes its importance.

The company director himself gave the talk.

[The company director, who is an important person, gave the talk.]

FURTHER EXAMPLES



You don't have to do the dishes. I'll do them myself.



She's fixing her car herself. It's cheaper than taking it to the garage.



The meal itself wasn't very good, but it was a great evening.



The board members themselves will be at the meeting today.



I do my laundry myself, but my dad does my sister's for her.



I wanted us to build the furniture ourselves, but it's not going well.

78.4 REFLEXIVE COLLOCATIONS

Many collocations contain reflexive pronouns. They often follow the pattern verb plus reflexive pronoun plus preposition.



She still has to familiarize herself with company policy.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Reflexive pronouns are often used implies that "you" is the subject.

in the imperative. Here, "yourself"

Sometimes the subject is not included, but is implied by the reflexive pronoun.



Are you leaving early today? Enjoy yourself!



The managers don't concern themselves with minor issues.



Remember to behave yourselves when you are in public.



Try to tear yourself away from the computer as often as possible.



He was sitting by himself in the café.

"By" is used with a reflexive pronoun to mean "alone."

"EACH OTHER" 78.5

When two or more people or things perform the same action to the other, "each other" is used instead of a reflexive pronoun.

Amy and Raj looked at each other.

[Amy looked at Raj and Raj looked at Amy.]



Amy and Raj looked at themselves in the mirror.

[Amy looked herself in the mirror and Raj looked at himself in the mirror.]



FURTHER EXAMPLES

They gave each other presents.

The children are shouting at one another.

"One another" means the same as "each other."

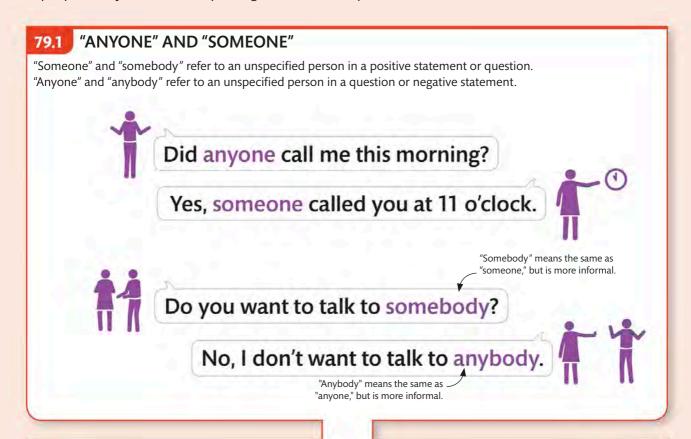
My cats hate each other!

We're helping each other with our homework.

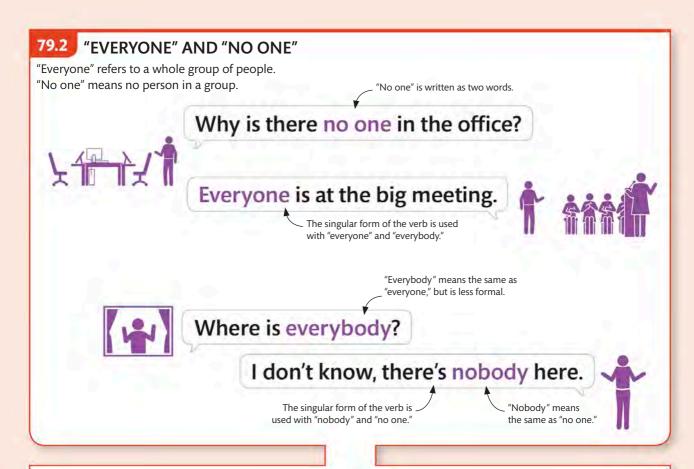
79 Indefinite pronouns

Indefinite pronouns, such as "anyone," "someone," and "everyone," are used to refer to a person or object, or a group of people or objects, without explaining who or what they are.

See also:Present simple **1**Forming questions **34**







FURTHER EXAMPLES

Nobody wants to come with me.



I'm at the park with everyone if you'd like to join us.

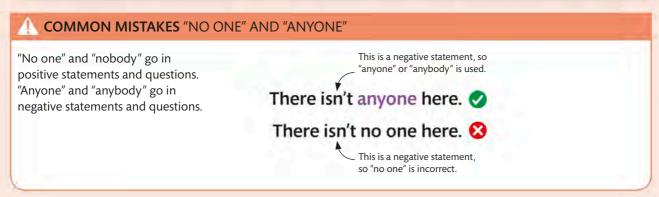


Everybody has some kind of special skill.



There was nobody but me at work until 10am.





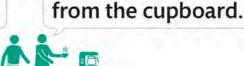
"SOMETHING" AND "ANYTHING"

"Something" and "anything" refer to an unspecified or unnamed object or thing. "Something" can only be used in questions and positive statements, whereas "anything" can be used in negative statements as well as questions and positive statements.

Here "something" has a more general meaning, as the speaker may not have a specific thing in mind.

Can I have something to eat?

Here "something" refers to a specific, unnamed thing that the speaker has in mind.



Yes, have something

The singular form of the verb is used with "anything" and "something."

> Is there anything I can help with?

No, there isn't anything you can do.

> This statement is negative, so "anything" is used, not "something."

FURTHER EXAMPLES

"Anything" used in positive statements shows the possibilities are unlimited.

Have anything you want



Anything baked by my grandmother tastes delicious.



There's something I need to tell you.



I know I've forgotten something but I can't think what it is.

is kayaking with my friends.

Something that I've always enjoyed



I'd do anything to be able to sing like her.



Something spooky happened last night.



218

in common.

79.4 "NOTHING" AND "EVERYTHING"

"Nothing" means that there are no available objects or things.

Tim and James have nothing in common.



There is no single thing that Tim and James have in common.

"Everything" means all the possible objects or things are available.

Tim and Dan do everything together.



Where "nothing" is used in a positive statement, "anything" can be used in a negative statement with the same meaning.

There's nothing I want to buy here.

The verb is positive.

[There isn't anything I want to buy here.]

The verb is negative.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

There's nothing I love more than a sunny day.



I want to see everything at the museum.



Everything is going well at the moment.



I know absolutely nothing about Geography.



Nothing at the exhibition was any good.



I do everything to the best of my ability.



I love that new Italian restaurant. Everything tastes so good!



Nothing interests me about politics.

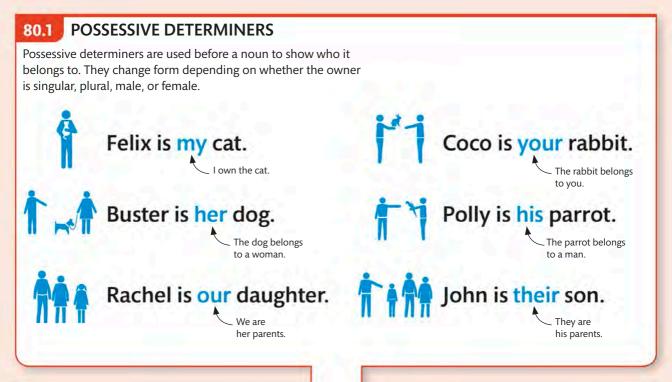


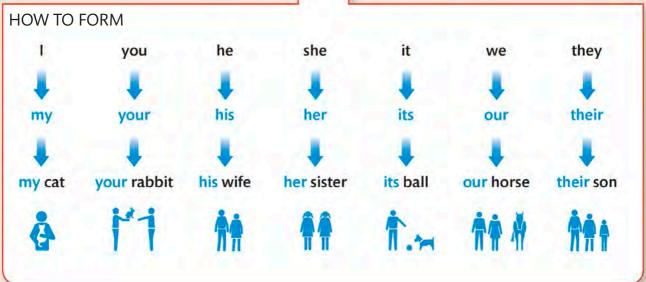
80 Possession

Possessive determiners, possessive pronouns, apostrophe with "s," and the verbs "have" and "have got" are all used to express possession in English.

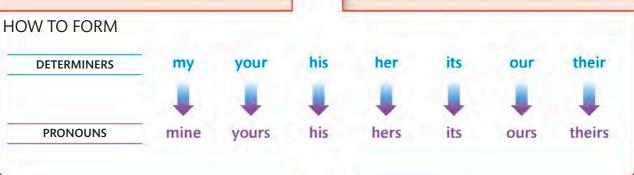
See also:

Forming questions **34** Verb patterns with objects **53** "This / that / these / those" **65**

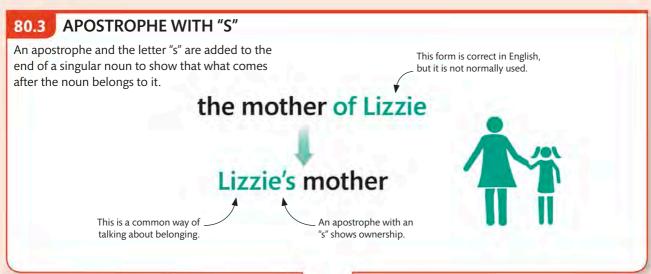


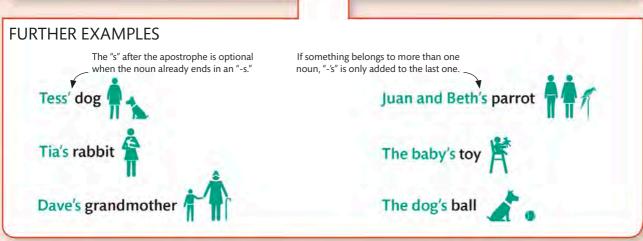














80.4 APOSTROPHES AND PLURAL NOUNS

To show belonging with a plural noun that ends in "-s," just an apostrophe with no "s" is added.

Ginger is my parents' cat.

Plural nouns that end with "-s" use an apostrophe with no extra "s."



To show belonging with a plural noun that doesn't end in "-s," an apostrophe and an "s" are added.

Polly is our children's parrot.

This is formed in the same way as singular nouns, with an apostrophe and "s."



FURTHER EXAMPLES

My friends' dog is called Rex.



I'm looking after my cousins' rabbit



That is his grandparents' house.



She cares about her students' grades.



These are the men's rooms.



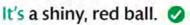
It depends on the people's vote.



It is important not to confuse "its" with "it's." "Its" is a third person singular possessive determiner, and never has an apostrophe. "It's" is only ever a contraction of "it is."



The dog is playing with its ball.



This is a possessive so needs no apostrophe.

The dog is playing with it's ball. 🔇

Its a shiny, red ball. 😢

This is a contraction of "it is," so should have an apostrophe before the "s."

